

The Trouble With Housing

Sneaky Bank Loans Are Ending Badly For Millions



February 2005

In this month alone,
about 70,000 homes
were foreclosed
(taken away).

February 2006

117,000 foreclosures

January 2007

130,000 foreclosures

May 2007

176,000
foreclosures

KEY TERMS TO KNOW

Loan: Any money borrowed from a bank

Mortgage: The specific kind of loan you get to pay for a house

Interest rate: The fee the bank charges for the loan

Default: When the borrower can no longer afford to pay back the loan

Foreclosure: When the bank takes the house away to sell it because the borrower can no longer pay back the loan

Subprime lending: When banks give a loan to someone who would not normally qualify for a loan.

HOW A HOME LOAN WORKS

When a family wants to buy a house but can't afford to pay for it all at once, a bank gives a loan called a mortgage. Banks charge interest for this. It's how banks make lots of money. Here's an example of how this works:

Price of house: \$120,000

Family pays: \$20,000

And borrows from bank: \$100,000

Interest rate: 6%

Time to pay back loan: 30 years

Total paid back to bank: \$210,000

Bank's profit: \$110,000!

than white families. According to U.S. government data, blacks and Latinos have received higher cost loans compared to whites and Asians.

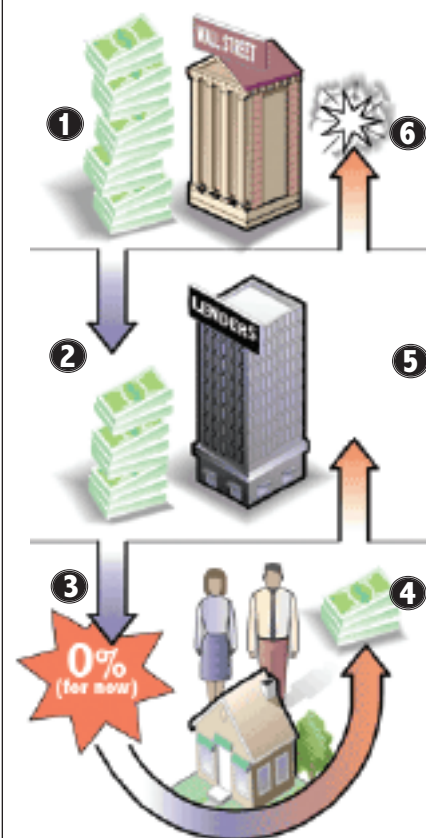
There are very few rules on the way banks and mortgage companies lend money to borrowers. Many homeowners and housing rights activists are demanding an end to subprime lending. They are also demanding that foreclosures be stopped so that families can keep their homes.

"When you look at the fact that one

out of four subprime loans is expected to go into foreclosure, that tells you that there's something wrong with the system," Mark Winston Griffith of the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project told the *Democracy Now!* news program.

"And so something has to be done to change that," he continued, "not the practices of individual borrowers but...the lending practices that have put these people in that position in the first place."

HOW TROUBLE HAPPENS



1 The loan company gets money from investment banks.

2 The loan company then is able to fund home loans, called mortgages.

3 Many families have poor credit. They are given subprime mortgages. These start out with a low interest rate — but payments start getting higher later on.

4 The families make payments on the loan every month.

5 But when the interest rate rises, many cannot keep up and go into default.

6 The bank is forced to take back the house, called foreclosure.

Belize Quick Facts

Population: 291,800 • **Capital:** Belmopan • **Languages:** English (official), Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna, Creole • **Religions:** Roman Catholic and Protestant
Prime Minister: Said Wilbert Musa • **Poverty:** 33% of the people live in poverty • **History:** Belize was a British colony and officially became independent in 1981

MEET MARVIANI & LORENA FROM BELIZE

Name: Marviani Gonzalez, 13, and Lorena Gonzalez, 12

Home: Belize City **Language:** English and some Spanish

Parents: Their mother sells souvenirs to tourists, and their father is a construction worker.

Siblings: They have a brother and three other sisters.

Favorite foods: Rice and beans, seafood, fried fish.

Hobbies: They like to play catch, tag, soccer, baseball, basketball and softball. They also like to read and watch cartoons and movies.

What Marviani says about Belize: "It's beautiful and we have lots of friends. People are loving. But there's a lot of violence and killing." —JUDI CHENG



Where in the World Is Belize?



Political Killing in Pakistan

Former Prime Minister Is Assassinated

By Erin Thompson

Former prime minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on December 27, a week before elections were supposed to take place in Pakistan.

Bhutto, who had been living outside the country, returned to Pakistan a few months earlier at the request of the Bush administration. She was campaigning for her family's political party to challenge the rule of current President Pervez Musharraf. Many Pakistanis believe Musharraf, a military leader, was behind Bhutto's killing. A British team is investigating to find out who killed her.

Pakistan is a Muslim country in central Asia and one of the U.S. government's key allies in the area. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has provided more than \$5 billion in military aid to the country. But Pakistan is not a democracy. President Musharraf came to power in a military take-over in 1999.

The U.S. government is pushing for elections, but observers and Bhutto her-



BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS

Pakistan President Musharraf's government is suspected in the killing of Benazir Bhutto, above.

self believed the elections under Musharraf would be rigged.

Musharraf has used the military to suspend the constitution twice — most recently declaring a state of emergency in Pakistan. Then he arrested lawyers and judges who challenged his rule. But Musharraf still has strong support from the U.S. and British governments.

"The U.S. and the U.K. are muting [silencing] their criticism on the grounds that Pakistan's central role in the US-led 'war on terror' makes Musharraf an indispensable ally. This policy is as dangerous as it is flawed," wrote Ali Dayan Hasan, South Asia researcher for Human Rights Watch.

Tribe Declares Its Independence

On December 20, members of the Lakotah Sioux, a Native American tribe, announced that they were creating a new independent nation in parts of five U.S. states — Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

Lakotah leaders say that they decided to create their own country because the United States has not honored the treaties it signed with the Lakotah in the 1800s.

The U.S. government aided white settlers in the take-over of Lakotah land. In 1890, U.S. soldiers carried out a massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, killing more than 300 members of the Lakotah tribe. Since then, many Lakotah Indians have been living



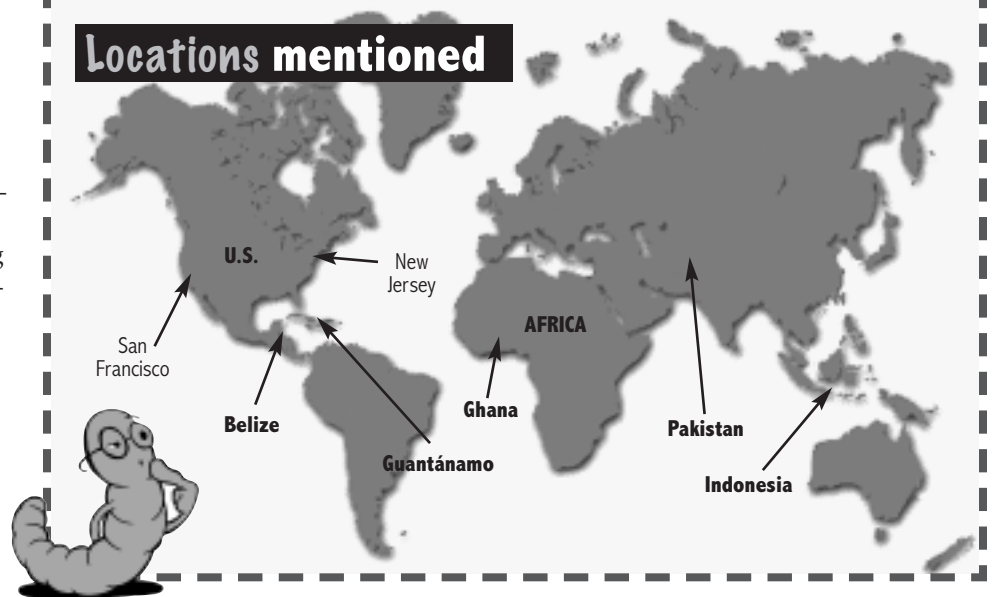
REPUBLICOF LAKOTAH.COM

Representatives of the Lakotah Sioux Indians announce the tribe's independence from the United States.

on reservations, areas set up for American Indians by the U.S. government.

Today nearly all the Lakotah people live in poverty. —ET

Locations mentioned



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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

Indykids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. Indykids is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Children's PressLine: www.cplmedia.org
 Common Language Project: www.commonlanguageproject.net
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 New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
 New York Public Library: www.nypl.org
 Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
 Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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• Amanda Vender
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• Dave Baker
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 • Helen Stavrou & Tom Grannell
 • Xavier Tayo

GUANTÁNAMO ON TRIAL

By Erin Thompson

In December, the United States Supreme Court began hearing a case that will decide whether the U.S. government can imprison people without a trial. Since January 11, 2002, the government has been holding men without trial at a military prison on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. These men are accused by the government of being “terrorists.” They are not allowed to defend themselves in court or to know the evidence against them.

According to the U.S. Constitution, anyone who is arrested for a crime is allowed to have a lawyer and a trial. The

government must present evidence of a crime in court, or the person being held must be let go. This right is called **habeas corpus**. But the administration of President George W. Bush has said habeas corpus does not apply to people it decides are terrorists. It has also said that the government can hold anyone it accuses of terrorism for as long it wants.

For the 300 men being held prisoner at Guantánamo, this means that they do not know when or if they will ever be released. Many do not even know why they are being held. The men at Guantánamo are citizens of foreign countries arrested around the world after the September 11, 2001, attacks.



GLOBALSECURITY.ORG

While at Guantánamo, many of the men have been forcibly questioned. This practice has led to many abuses at Guantánamo, with prisoners accusing the government of torture.

This spring, the Supreme Court will decide if holding men without trial at Guantánamo Bay is legal. If it decides that it is illegal, the men will have to be tried, convicted or let go.

New Jersey Gets Rid of Its Death Penalty

By Erin Thompson

On December 17, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to end the death penalty for convicted criminals. The death penalty means that the government has the right to kill a person for committing crimes such as murder. This is called **execution**. The decision by New Jersey may mean that other states will also decide to stop using the death penalty.

Currently thirty-six states use the death penalty. In June 1972, the Supreme Court of the United States — the highest-level court in the country — decided that using the death penalty was “cruel and unusual” punishment, making the death penalty against the law. But in 1976, the court changed its mind and made the death penalty legal again. Since then 1,099 people have been executed by state governments.

Many people say the death penalty is unfair and should be abolished. Not everyone who commits a crime receives the same punishment. In some cases, people who commit murder don’t receive the death penalty. In other cases, they do.

Black people who are found guilty of murder are more likely to be executed than white people who are found guilty of the same crime, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. In addition, crimes in which a victim was white and the convicted killer was black are more likely to lead to a death sentence.

Many people who have been convicted and sentenced to death have actually been innocent. Since 1973, more than 120 people have been proven innocent and released from death row.

ELECTION 2008

Just What Are the Primaries All About?

By Krista Giacopelli

The 2008 election for U.S. president will soon be here. Some people think that the election starts and ends in November of the election year, but the process really starts long before the actual election.

The primary elections are a competition within political parties to choose a candidate who will run in the final presidential election. Democrat, Republican and Green parties each have a candidate who could become president.

States hold their primary elections starting in January. The candidates prepare for them by making speeches, running TV advertisements and debating each other, telling voters about their beliefs and how the nation should be run. Some candidates even get famous people like Oprah Winfrey to support them and help connect them to voters.

The primaries are different from the general (final) election because in most states voters can only vote for candidates

from the party they are registered with. They can decide who will be their party’s candidate in the general election on November 4, 2008. During that election a voter can vote for whoever he or she feels will be the best leader, whether the candidate is from that voter’s party or not.

ASK THE CANDIDATES

What issues are important to you? The war in Iraq, funding for schools, health



care, the environment, standardized tests...you name it! *IndyKids* will be contacting the 2008 presidential candidates to ask them your

questions. Responses will be printed in September’s *IndyKids* Election Special. Let us know what you would like to ask the candidates. **Deadline:** May 1.

E-mail: indykids@indymedia.org, or write to: *IndyKids*, P.O. Box 1417, New York, NY 10276.



GETTY IMAGES (TOP); FLICKER.COM/HILLARYCLINTON

Another Rerun? TV, Movie and Radio Writers Go on Strike

By Anne Boisselle

The Writers Guild of America (WGA), a union that represents writers for television, film and radio in the United States, went on strike on November 5. This means that the writers refuse to work until their employer meets their demands. The WGA is striking against the Alliance of Modern Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), a group that represents television and film producers who employ the

writers.

“After 3½ months of bargaining, the AMPTP still has not responded to a single one of our important proposals,” the WGA said in a statement released at the start of the strike. “Every issue that matters to writers, including Internet reuse, original writing for new media, DVDs, and

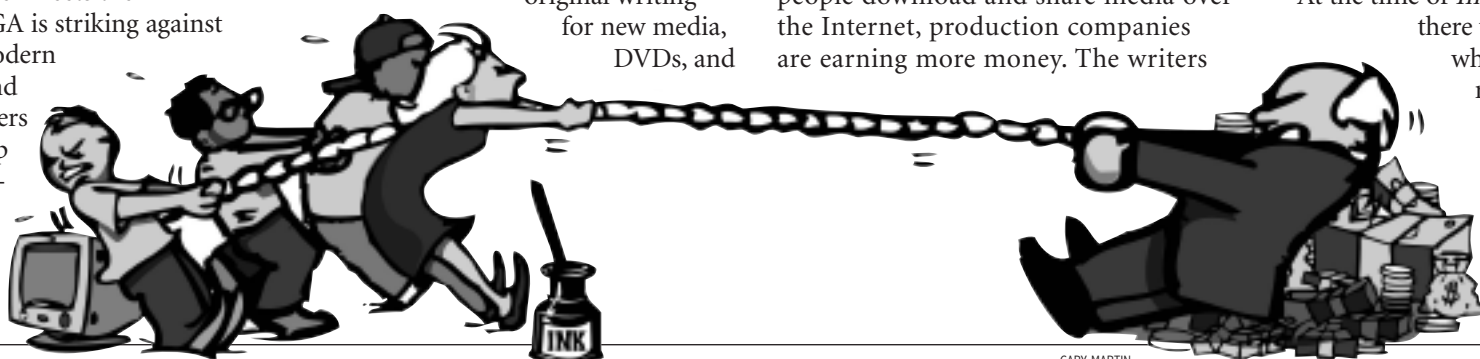
jurisdiction, has been ignored. This is completely unacceptable.”

The WGA feels that writers do not receive enough money for their work writing for TV programs and movies. Another issue is payment for the writing of new media. As more and more people download and share media over the Internet, production companies are earning more money. The writers

want a fairer share of those profits as well.

One of the most important issues the WGA is fighting for is more money for the writers from DVD sales. This has been an issue in the past for the WGA: specifically the last strike in 1988.

At the time of *IndyKids*’ publication, there was no set date for when the writers will return to work. They say they will continue to strike until the union receives the recognition its writers deserve.



GARY MARTIN



Antarctic glacier at sunset

GLOBAL WARMING: THE HEAT IS ON

Global warming is the heating up of the earth by human activity. Global warming is caused by certain “greenhouse” gases, such as **carbon dioxide**, methane and nitrous oxide, being released into the earth’s atmosphere. This process is called the **greenhouse effect** because the greenhouse gases trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere, which leads to rising temperatures on earth.

The more greenhouse gases that are released, the warmer it gets. As the earth warms rapidly, it is causing drastic changes to the **climate** (weather) on earth.

How Does Global Warming Happen?

Whenever you drive a car, watch TV or use electricity, you are using energy. Much of this energy is produced by burning **fossil fuels**, such as oil and coal. Oil, which is found deep below the earth and which is made up of decomposed (broken down) organic material like animals and plants, is made into gasoline that is burned in cars. Coal is burned by many power plants that provide electricity to homes.

Burning fossil fuels give off an unseen byproduct: greenhouse gases.

Carbon Dioxide

The United States is the world’s largest emitter of carbon dioxide. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere is at its highest levels in 650,000 years.

Kids Weighing the Fate of the World

The fate of the world is a huge issue. But at my high school, James Baldwin High School, which holds about 180 kids in Manhattan, I’ve never had an academic class, much less a discussion, on global warming.

“It’s the change in the climate that will cause the world to have a lot of disasters,” said 16-year-old student Anthony Jones. I interviewed him during a science class and asked him to answer some questions relating to his knowledge of global warming. To everyone’s amazement in the classroom, Anthony was unable to explain what global warming meant. But when it came to explaining the definition of global warming, the other students were just as clueless as he is about the whole situation.

“If this is such a big problem for the world then we should be considered when this is being discussed,” said Stephany Cruz, a junior. “I feel somewhat ignorant and lost because this isn’t a new issue, but yet still I don’t know any facts about it.”

A lot of teens do not know the real definition of



global warming. “When the world basically starts to destruct because of what man is doing to it,” was how Chassidy Torres, a junior, explained global warming.

At first I was also very ignorant when it came to global warming; I didn’t know what it was, and I didn’t even know how to begin explaining the little that I did know about it.

Through researching and interviewing people, I learned the real meaning of global warming and the effect it can have on our planet and us. It needs to be taught in most, if not all, science classrooms of James Baldwin High School.

I feel that it is important for teens to understand what global warming is because they are old enough and more experienced to know how to help make a change.

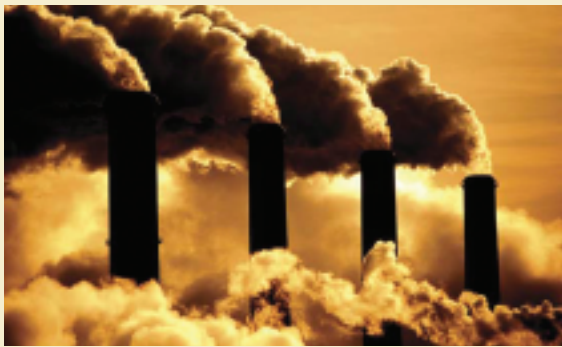
Audra Beauchamp, the James Baldwin science teacher, said that when students get old enough, they can “help make a change in their own little ways. It has to start from somewhere.”

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Monique Merchant, 17, completed a semester-long internship with *IndyKids*.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

- 1 Energy from the sun passes through the atmosphere, warming the earth.
- 2 Some of the sun’s energy is reflected back into space.
- 3 But greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap much of the heat, warming the earth.

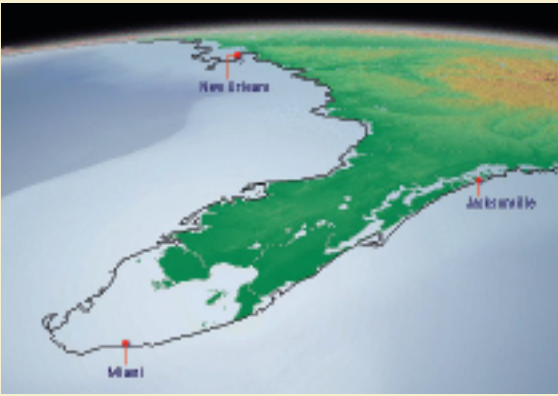


TIME TO CUT THE CARBS

Industry produces greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. The more that’s produced, the warmer it will get. And right now there is more carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere than in the past 650,000 years!

IT’S MELTING!

Scientists recently estimated that the **Arctic Ocean**, which is covered with a permanent layer of thick ice, could be ice free as early as 2013.



A REAL WATER WORLD

This map predicts what what will happen to Florida if the **West Antarctic Ice Sheet** melts, causing a 17-foot rise in global sea levels. The black lines are current coastlines. As you can see, much of the state would disappear under water! This could happen to coastlines all over the world.

IMAGE BY WILLIAM HAXBY; SOURCE: PBS

GORE GETS PEACE PRIZE

On December 10, former U.S. vice president **Al Gore** received the Nobel Peace Prize, an annual award given to someone for advancing the cause of peace, for his work on the issue of global warming.

Over the past few years, Gore has embarked on a nationwide speaking tour to raise awareness of global warming. A film documenting Gore’s tour, called *An Inconvenient Truth*, was produced last year.

Gore shared the Peace Prize with the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC), a world panel of 2,500 climate researchers who participated in a study on global warming that was released in 2007 by the United Nations. The study found that humans are to blame for global warming, and that the rise of temperatures around the world threatens to dramatically impact the environment.

GLOBAL WEIRDING

In 2007, floods, fires, droughts and unusual weather patterns occurred around the world. In addition, many species of animals and plants are nearing extinction because of global warming. Here are some examples of global warming in action:

DISAPPEARING RAINFOREST: Scientists reported that 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest could disappear or be severely damaged by global warming as early as 2030. The Amazon rainforest is one of the world’s largest “carbon sinks,” places that absorb carbon dioxide.

The damage to the rainforest could cause the release of 50-100 billion extra tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

WALRUSES DIE IN STAMPEDE: Last summer, as many as 4,000 Pacific walruses were killed in a stampede. Many were crushed by other walruses, who were trying to climb onto an overcrowded shore. The shore was overcrowded because the sea ice on which the walruses usually sit had disappeared due to higher summer temperatures.

CORAL REEFS DYING: Nearly all of the world’s coral reefs, which are plant-like animals that live on the ocean floor, could be dead by 2050 due to rising levels of greenhouse gases. The gases are absorbed by the ocean water, making it too acidic for corals to grow.

BYE, BYE BIRDIES: Almost a third of all land birds could go extinct in the next 100 years because of global warming.

NOT SO HAPPY FEET: At least four species of Antarctica’s penguins are threatened because of melting sea ice and a lack of fish. Antarctica is warming five times faster than other places on earth.

YOUR TURN!

What do you think should be done about global warming? E-mail *IndyKids* at indykids@indymedia.org, or write to: P.O. Box 1417, New York, NY 10276.

Students Speak Out To Save School

By Jill Guerra

In early December, teachers at Sankofa Academy in Oakland, California, informed their students that the district administrator representing their school would recommend that Sankofa be closed for the 2008-'09 year. The administrator said the low enrollment made it too expensive to keep it open. Sankofa is a kindergarten-to-fifth-grade public school.

The students cried, hung their heads and protested. "It doesn't make any sense. They'll just close this



JILL GUERRA

Students make signs that say 'Don't give up on us!' and 'Sankofa is better than ever!'

school down and put up another one like they did before," said Genesis Johnson, a fourth grader. Sankofa opened September 2005 in the building of a school that had been closed the year before for the same reason: low enrollment.

Across the school that week in classrooms discussions took place, students wrote letters and made posters. Even the kindergarten class wrote a group letter. One thing was certain, the students wanted to be heard.

On December 12, a dozen Sankofa students addressed the school board. For hours, they waited until their names were called to speak. Two fourth graders read the letters they wrote to the board. Second graders Milan and Amaya addressed the board with a request that their school remain open. And fifth graders read, from a giant-size scroll, the reasons why their school should remain open. They said, "Small classes are better for students" and "We have a community at Sankofa."

The decision to keep the school open was made a week later because the community spoke up that night on behalf of Sankofa's African-American children and they were heard.

LETTER FROM GHANA

A Student's View of Fifty Years

By Stella Apeke

GHANA, WEST AFRICA — Last year was a great one in the lives of Ghanaians because it marked fifty years of freedom. On March 6, 1957, the British, our former colonial masters, left our country and we began to rule ourselves. On March 6, 2007, there was a great holiday for all Ghanaians. All presidents from different African countries came to Ghana. Students were given shirts that said "Ghana at 50" and books. Everyone hoisted the national flag of Ghana in front of his or her house.

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was the founder of modern Ghana. He believed that all African nations and people must gain freedom and unite as one. He believed that Ghana would lead the way, like a guiding light.

That is why we call him "the Black Star" of Pan-Africanism. Nkrumah fought for our country's independence by talking to people, organizing protests, boycotts, civil disobedience

and strikes to put pressure on the colonial rulers. The British sent him to jail. Ghanaians continued to resist until the British finally agreed to hold elections, a step toward self-government. Nkrumah was voted to be Ghana's first president.

Because of the people who resisted we now have a lot of freedoms in our country. For example, when the British were ruling our country we were not allowed to offer sacrifices to our gods

because they wanted us to go to church. Now that we rule ourselves, we can go to any place of worship. Future generations will learn a lot about Nkrumah and other resistance fighters by the way we honor them. If we do not honor them, how will our generation know about the footsteps they left behind?

• • • • •

Stella Apeke is 17 years old and plans to become a journalist.



Stella took this photo (she's reflected in the mirror) as part of Deviwo Projects' Zongo Junction Youth Photo Program. To see more photos, go to deviwo.org

FUN WITH ROBOTS!

Kids Solve Energy/Power Problems — and Compete

By IndyKids staff

Kids from New York City schools will design robots that will compete in the *FIRST* LEGO League tournament in January.

The tournament is held in countries around the world.

Students will use plastic Legos to design simple robots that will get points for completing missions related to energy and power.

Robots designed by students complete missions, such as installing a solar panel on the roof of a home or

moving a dam across a river so that the water can be used to create electricity.

Many high schools in the United States and other countries have robotics teams.

Students on these teams spend months learning about and building robots.

They compete in tournaments with other schools.

Schools are judged on a variety of different categories, including creativity, team spirit and robot quality.



PRIMEFLL.COM.AU

Students in Australia compete in a robotics tournament.

Siberian Tiger and Boy Killed in San Francisco

By Amanda Vender

A Siberian tiger named Tatiana escaped from her cage and attacked zoo-goers at the San Francisco Zoo on December 25. The tiger killed a teenager and injured two others. Police then shot and killed the tiger.

The organization People for the Ethical Treatment of



Animals (PETA) is telling people to write to the zoo to get it to close the tiger exhibit. PETA says that it isn't natural for big cats to be kept in such a small space. "Given that the average tiger enclosure is about 18,000 times smaller than the animals' natural roaming range, it is simply impossible for these animals to express instinctual behav-

iors, such as staking out territory in dense forests, choosing mates, running, climbing trees and hunting," said PETA in a statement.

The San Francisco Zoo is the zoo that in 2004 closed down its elephant exhibit and sent the elephants to a larger and more humane sanctuary. But in the case of the recent tiger incident, the zoo announced that it plans to build a better security barrier between the tigers and people.

CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR AROUND THE WORLD

Happy New Year! Bonne Année! Feliz Año Nuevo!

SOUTH KOREA: In a fire festival called Jeju-do, a small hill is set on fire the night of the first full moon to symbolize a new beginning.



ALEX PAGE

By Priya Sachdeva

“10...9...8...7...6...” The count-down begins. People eagerly wait as the second hand inches toward midnight. The clock strikes 12; bells, confetti and fireworks go off around the world as people welcome in the new year.

New Year’s Day is one of the most commonly celebrated holidays around the world. But not all New Year’s celebrations take place on the same day or in the same way. Many people in the United States, as in much of the world, observe New Year’s Day on January 1 by celebrating late into the night on the eve of December 31. But some places use different calendars and have other customs and traditions to welcome in the new year.

For instance, China follows a lunar calendar, which is based on the movement of the moon around the earth. The new year is usually celebrated for several days between January 17 and

WHEN THEY CELEBRATE

Armenian: March 21
Chinese: Between January 21 & February 20
Indian: Near the end of October
Jewish: September
Pakistani: March
South Pacific: Mid-October
Swiss: January 13
Tibetan: Late January or early February
American: January 1

NOTE: DATES MAY VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR

February 19. In Iran, the new year is celebrated according to the solar calendar and takes place at the beginning of March. Not only does the date mark the beginning of a new year, but also bahar, “the beginning of spring,” calling for double the celebration!

Whether it is rung in with family and friends, or a few special people in your life, the new year is a wonderful time to reflect on the past and think about the future.

An Eco-Book Classic From The World of Dr. Seuss

By Yannery Gonzalez

In the mystical world Dr. Seuss creates, the Lorax is the protector of the land of Swomee-Swans and Truffula Trees. In the beginning of the book *The Lorax*, a young boy is seeking to find out why the Lorax was “lifted and taken somewhere from the far end of town where the Grickle-grass grows,” which only the Once-ler seems to know.



REVIEW

The Once-ler, who is the other main character, is slowly and ignorantly destroying the environment for his own personal gain. Unfortunately, the Once-ler does not realize until it is too late just how much damage he has caused.

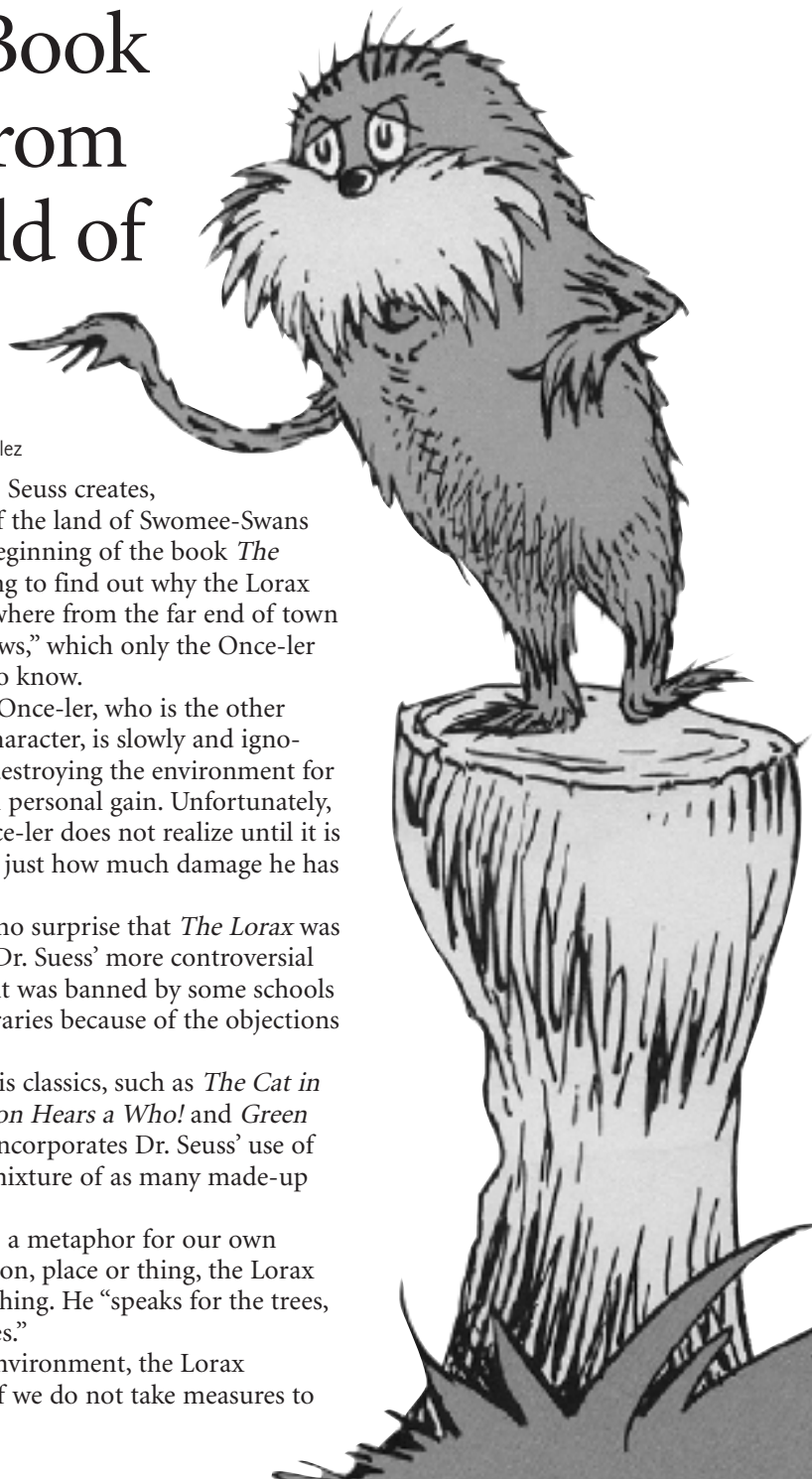
It is no surprise that *The Lorax* was one of Dr. Seuss’ more controversial books; it was banned by some schools and libraries because of the objections

of the logging industry.

Like so many others of his classics, such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Hop on Pop*, *Horton Hears a Who!* and *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Lorax* incorporates Dr. Seuss’ use of familiar rhymes that are a mixture of as many made-up words as real ones.

The Lorax can be seen as a metaphor for our own world. While not a real person, place or thing, the Lorax defends every single living thing. He “speaks for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.”

As the protector of the environment, the Lorax cautions what can happen if we do not take measures to care for our environment.



TWO THUMBS DOWN ON VIDEO VIOLENCE

From music videos to video games, every day kids are exposed to a lot of media. Here is what two students think about some of the media they have been watching:

The video game *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* is too violent for young kids to play. The game shows kids how to shoot others for no reason. It shows young men disrespecting females; and it shows people violating the law by beating up police officers.



to beat up females in real life.

The game gives the player weapons and tells the player to beat up the officer, then take his weapons. Kids will really try it, especially if they are young. In the game, the players are winners. In real life, the players would be put in jail or killed. —AMANDA MENDEZ, 5TH GRADE, BROOKLYN

Have you ever really seen how it is that young girls are in music videos? Industries portray young girls as sexual, 24/7. Many times, young girls in music videos can be found crying because they don’t have a man to make them feel good enough. Another thing about music videos is that they focus on the female body more than anything else; for example, “Ayo Technology” by 50 Cent.

Now don’t get me wrong, I do like the lyrics, but is it really necessary to have all of that butt all up in the camera? In most videos like this one you can find the girls all on top of the artists. As if in real life girls really act like that. ...Music videos send people the wrong idea of young girls. —DIANA FERNANDEZ, 5TH GRADE, BROOKLYN





GARY MARTIN

Who Am I?



1. I was an American marine biologist and nature writer from western Pennsylvania.
2. Some people say that because of my work the environmental movement started.
3. My book *Silent Spring*, about the dangers of pesticides, was published in 1962.
4. My work helped lead to a ban on the use of a harmful pesticide, DDT, in the United States and to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

—AV

Answer: Rachel Carson

SOLVE THIS PUZZLE!

See if you can unscramble the words below, using the clues provided. Then decode the secret word, revealing something you can do to lessen global warming. If you need help, go back to the global warming articles on pages 4-5.

1. Indonesian island, **LIBA** _ _ _ _
2. In the Amazon, **SIFETRNAO** _ _ _ _
3. Plant-like animal, **OACRL** _ _ _ _
4. International treaty, **TKYOORCOLPTO** _ _ _ _
5. Fate of one-third of land birds? **NETXTCI** _ _ _ _
6. Overcrowded animal, **LRWASU** _ _ _ _
7. U.S. is the top producer, **RNOSEGEHUEASG** _ _ _ _

Secret Word: _ _ _ _ _
1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Answer: Bicycle NASA PHOTO

kids' recipe



Take a Crack at Making Your Own Scrambled Eggs!

WHAT YOU NEED

- ❖ a bowl
- ❖ two eggs
- ❖ whisk
- ❖ pepper and salt
- ❖ cream or milk
- ❖ pan and spatula
- ❖ paprika (optional)
- ❖ butter

- 1 Crack the eggs into the bowl.
- 2 Add one teaspoon of cream or milk.
- 3 Put in a pinch of salt and pepper.
- 4 Add paprika (optional).
- 5 Beat the mixture with a whisk until it looks completely yellow.
- 6 Heat the pan to a medium temperature and put butter all over it.
- 7 Once the pan is hot, pour out the egg mixture and stir it with the spatula until it is cooked. —DORA SKELTON

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